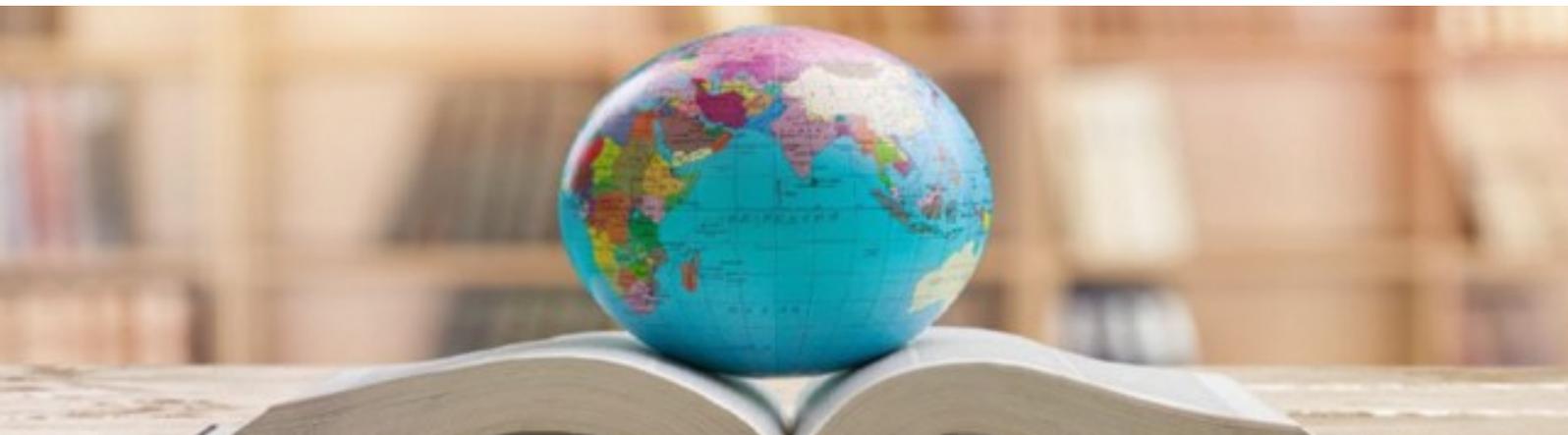


## NEWSLETTER

### EDUCATION 2-8 March 2026



#### **China Records a 12.7 Million College Graduates in 2026**

China's higher education system is poised to reach a historic milestone in 2026, with the Ministry of Education projecting a staggering 12.7 million college graduates entering the workforce. This figure represents a 4 percent increase, or an additional 480,000 individuals, compared to the 12.22 million graduates of 2025. This marks the seventh consecutive year of record-breaking graduate numbers. **(Academicjobs)**

#### **More Chinese universities entered the global top 50**

Peking University climbed to 14th in the QS 2025 World University Rankings, up from 17th the year before. Tsinghua University moved to 20th, a five-place jump. Both Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Zhejiang University entered the global top 50 for the first time. In the 2026 THE rankings, two mainland Chinese universities appeared in the global top 15. **(Lingobright.com)**

#### **China dropped to the second place as source of international students in the U.S.**

China remains the world's largest source of international students, with 1.02 million enrolled in degree programs abroad in 2023. The U.S. hosted 265,919 Chinese students in 2024/25, a 4% decline year-on-year. China dropped to second place behind India (363,019 students in 2024/2025) as a source of international students for American institutions. **(Lingobright.com)**

#### **The number of students reached nearly 300 million in China**

China's education system enrolled over 290 million students across all levels in 2024. At the same time, 12.22 million college graduates poured into a job market where youth unemployment sat near 17%. China also produced 1.17 million master's graduates and 82,000 doctoral graduates in 2024, cementing its position as the world's largest higher education system by enrollment. **(wifitalents.com)**

#### **Vocational education system reaches 34 million students**

China has established the world's largest vocational education system, with 87 vocational undergraduate universities, 9,302 secondary vocational schools, and 1,562 vocational colleges. Total enrollment reached 34 million students in 2025, offering 1,434 majors covering every industrial category in the UN Industrial Classification. The system has provided over 70% of skilled workers during the 14th Five-Year Plan period. **(Ministry of Education, China)**